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# The Hippo Herald

FALL 2022

LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA

## Onward !

### *The draw of El Camino de Santiago*

*"If you want to go for a walk, Canada's a big country..."*

In a conversation with Rev. Andrew Horne he shared something his father had said on a day that Andrew was preparing for an upcoming pilgrimage. In order to train for long days on the trail, Andrew would load up a backpack and go for long hikes near his home.

"My father couldn't understand why anyone would go through *all this* just to go to *that* place."

That place was Spain and the walk would be El Camino de Santiago, the Way of St. James, a web of upwards of 50 pilgrimage routes that lead to the

town of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. The town's cathedral, housing relics of St. James, is visited by hundreds of thousands of pilgrims every year via several routes through western Europe. In his essay, "12 Days

in Spain," among other details, Andrew describes the process of obtaining the *credential*, a sort of passport, in which stamps at various points along the

Camino are collected. The credential allows pilgrims to access lower-priced accommodation and meals along the way and, at the end of the journey, the credential is used as proof of having walked at least 100 km of the Camino, in order to receive the *Compostela*, a



certificate of pilgrimage.

"The Camino is the one place where walking is explicitly a religious experience." Having been on the Camino several times, Andrew has trekked alone and

led groups that included parishioners from St. Augustine's.

"The gift of the Camino is time, and a life simple

enough that you can appreciate it. You can study your thoughts as if they were passing clouds."

Among the parishioners who have journeyed with Andrew are Mary Lee Voort, who joined the Camino during the autumn



NEW

*From the Rector's Desk*

## Sunday Evening at St. Augustine's

In fall 2021 a notice appeared in St. Augustine's bulletin and Parish Pulse inviting any interested parties to participate in a "process of discernment"

around the idea of starting a service to take the place of the Saturday Evening service which had not been held since the Covid pandemic began. A dozen brave souls made themselves available and met regularly

through most of the winter and spring for prayer, lectio divina, discussion and listening. The result of their careful work is a series of three "trial services" which will take place this fall under the name *Sunday Evening at St. Augustine's*. It is our hope that these three very different services will show us how we may focus on the needs of our diverse parish and get some feedback as to which one (or ones) are most helpful to the discipleship of our parish including the broader community in Lethbridge. Following is a brief description of each of the services:



just eaten our meal together. At intervals worship songs will be sung and prayers said, as appropriate. While we are used to sitting in straight rows for worship, many believe the earliest church may have done something very similar to this in the first century on a regular basis. In our case, the service will be recognizably Anglican, but offered in a fresh and less formal way, which we hope will promote fellowship, sharing and genuine communion. **We will be holding this service on Sunday, October 30 at 6 PM. All are welcome.**

**Contemporary Expression:** This service will be similar to the services formerly held on Saturday evening. The music will be contemporary in style, we will worship in the church and receive the Eucharist from a table near the chancel steps. There will be key differences with the old Saturday service. For example, instead of the same sermon which we hear on Sunday mornings, this service will feature a "witness talk" – a story of discipleship from one of the laity in our congregation. Following that, a brief clergy response. Again, the service will be recognizably Anglican, but more intimate and informal. **We will be holding this service on Sunday, November 13 at 6 PM. All are welcome.**

**Taize:** If you have been attending St. Augustine's for any length of time, you may have noticed the wonderful vocal preludes which are sung during lent as a way of

*It is our hope that these three very different services will show us how we may focus on the needs of our diverse parish and get some feedback as to which one (or ones) are most helpful to the discipleship of our parish including the broader community in Lethbridge.*

**Table Eucharist:** We will gather around a rectangular table (large enough for everyone) in the Hall or Crypt. Introductions will be made, an opening worship song (contemporary) will be sung and a simple meal (possibly potluck) will be shared. When the meal is concluded, a time of gospel-based discipleship (a simpler form of lectio divina) will take place, led by clergy. A simplified, bishop-approved service of Holy Eucharist will be celebrated in the intimacy of the same table where we have

preparing ourselves for the 10 AM services – songs like *Confitemini Domino*, and *Wait for the Lord*. These songs have emerged from the Taize community in France where thousands of people visit each year for times of worship and refreshment. The songs are simple and beautiful and serve to focus both heart and mind on God. Taize services include songs, psalms, sung responses, readings, silent meditation and intercession. The Taize style of worship nourishes the soul through quietness and repetition. **We will be holding this service on Sunday, November 27 at 6 PM. All are welcome.**

You are invited to come and share in these times of worship and experience them for yourself. Watch the bulletin/Parish Pulse for updates, changes or additions to these plans. Be prepared to enter in, to be blessed, challenged and encouraged, and offer your feedback on each of these very different forms of worship to members of our discernment group. It is our hope that one or more of these opportunities will be on our calendar regularly beginning in January 2023.

Your Rector,  
Steve

## Financial Update

BY CATHY GILLESPIE  
TREASURER

Here is a summary of the church operating fund financial results up to the end of August. As reported on the first line, total parishioner givings are less than they were at this time last year and are trending significantly under budget. Compared to the budget target for the first eight months of this year, parishioner givings are about \$19,000 (7%) under budget at this

time. On the plus side, a late (final) payment of \$4,906 federal wage subsidy was received during the summer.

Expenses for the most part are increasing to more normal (pre-pandemic) levels, as expected. Unfortunately, the facility expenses category is

over budget due to higher than anticipated utility cost increases. Although the total budget for expenses will not likely be exceeded this year, there won't be the significant savings of the last couple of years.

If total parishioner givings continue to be less than last year and significantly under budget, the deficit for 2022 will be higher than the budgeted \$25,000. Looking ahead, if this trend continues, financial support for church ministries and programs at the current level may not be sustainable. Ω



	Year to-date (August 31 2022)	Last year to-date (August 31 2021)	2022 Budget
Parishioner givings	\$ 259,563	\$ 263,695	\$ 465,500
Other income	5,891	6,433	43,700
Federal wage subsidy	4,906	9,762	0
Total income	270,360	279,890	509,200
Staffing expenses	\$ 212,447	\$ 190,828	\$ 325,500
Administration & apportionment	73,093	70,274	118,000
Facility expenses	47,908	38,684	71,600
Christian education & outreach	8,633	7,633	19,100
Total expenses	342,081	307,419	534,200
Net deficit	\$ (71,721)	\$ (27,527)	\$ (25,000)



# Remembering Her Majesty

## *Queen Elizabeth II*

BY THE REV. DR. GILLIAN BRECKENRIDGE

On Thursday, 8 September, 2022, the world received the news that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had died. Queen Elizabeth was the longest reigning monarch in the United Kingdom, serving the UK and the Commonwealth as monarch for 70 years. She died at the age of 96, surrounded by family, at the royal estate of Balmoral in Scotland.

That day saw the beginning of a 10-day period of mourning; the Queen's funeral was held on Monday, September 19, at Westminster Abbey in London.

For many in the UK and Canada, in the broader Commonwealth, and in the Anglican Communion, this historic moment has

marked the end of an era; many of us have known no other monarch in our lifetimes. Since her coronation in 1953 at the age of just 25, Queen Elizabeth II has been a steady presence through times of remarkable change.

And now, as we find ourselves living through our own unprecedented events in our own time, it was only fitting that we, as the community of St. Augustine's Anglican

Church, marked this historic moment together.

The day after our late Queen died, on Friday, September 9 at 8:30 a.m., the congregation was invited to come together for a service of Morning Prayer in St. Monica's Chapel, which included prayers of thanksgiving for Her Late Majesty, and prayers for the Royal Family and

King Charles III, as they mourned the loss of their beloved mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. At 9:30 a.m., joining with churches across the diocese, the church bell tolled 96 times – once for every year of the Queen's life.

On Tuesday, September 20, the day following Her Late Majesty's funeral at Westminster Abbey in London, the Anglican Church of Canada livestreamed a National Memorial Service from St. James' Cathedral in Toronto. On Wednesday, September 21, clergy gathered together from



*Inside the Cathedral Church of the Redeemer.*



across our diocese for a Service of Remembrance at the Cathedral Church of the Redeemer in Calgary. The Hon. Salma Lakhani, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, attended and, as the King's representative, diplomatic consuls from several nations were also in attendance. The service was led by Archbishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson and music was provided by the combined choirs of the Cathedral and of Christ Church.

Here at St. Augustine's, we held our own Special Commemoration Service on Thursday, September 22 at 7 p.m. The Rev. Canon James Robinson presided, with the assistance of The Rev. Steve Bateman, and I was honoured to offer the homily. A vocal quartet sang the Nunc Dimittis by Orlando Gibbons; our Senior Choir sang the anthem *All Things Bright and Beautiful* by John Rutter; and they led us in several hymns. As the ser-

vice came to an end, we sang – some of us for the first time – God Save the King, and we closed with O Canada.

It was an honour to be able to mark this historic time with all of you. God bless you, Ω



*Service of Remembrance at the Cathedral Church of the Redeemer.*

SPECIAL GUEST  
The Rev. Canon James Robinson  
in recognition of his ministry

YOU ARE INVITED!

ANNUAL *Harvest Dinner*

22 OCTOBER 2022 | 06:00 PM

The Crypt, St. Augustine's Church

Seating is limited. Reserve your seats today.  
\$12 adults ~ \$5 children under 12

# Quiet ministries

BY MARY LEE VOORT  
ORGANIST

I've found myself thinking a lot about quiet ministries lately. Maybe it's because, as a musician, I'm frequently surrounded by sound and I'm conscious of the many nuances of sound around me. Or maybe it's because, as a church organist, I can be very loud. What do you think are some of the "quiet ministries" around us?



thing that has always touched my heart, right from the first time I set foot in St. Augustine's. I love to walk into the sanctuary and breathe in the calm and the peace; it never fails to soothe my soul. The members of the Sanctuary Guild quietly, faithfully and lovingly ensure that the hanging of the banners, the laundering and ironing of the linens, the arranging of the flowers, the oiling of the wood and the polishing of the silver and brass (just to name a few things) are done to offer glory to God.

The video and sound technicians faithfully show up early each Sunday morning to make sure that our services are accessible to those who are not able to join our worship in person. The sides people show up early too, to welcome parishioners and guide them through



Did you know that St. Augustine's gave out more than 240 bottles of water last summer, and we're closing in on 300 this year? Our faithful and much-loved acolyte, Tom Warwick, quietly and graciously supplies flats of water bottles that are then sent out or handed to passersby who need a drink in the

scorching heat this summer.

The courtyard is an oasis of beauty, with changing flowers and foliage throughout each season, carefully tended by Doug Bain. Take time to walk slowly around its perimeter (especially in the spring and summer) and savour the glory to be found in this little piece of heaven on earth.

The beauty of the sanctuary is some-





the service, and then stay late to count and tally the offering. They are often the first point of contact for newcomers and give a vital first impression to visitors.

I could go on and on, but I'd like to challenge you to take a few minutes and think of some of the quiet ministries that go on around you. Say a prayer of thankfulness and support, or offer a word of encouragement and thanks to someone who is unobtrusively and faithfully performing a task that helps make St. Augustine's the special church it is.

Recently, a beautiful "toast" appeared in the "Roasted and Toasted" section of the Lethbridge Herald. It said: "TOAST: to St. Augustine's Anglican Church who are so hospitable with their cheerful, welcoming atmosphere which is so encouraging to those who need it." I love to think that someone's sincere smile and kind, thoughtful words made a difference to someone else. A quiet ministry, but a ministry beyond price. May we all find our own quiet ways to work for the glory of God.

Not sure what you could do or how you could help? Check out the upcoming "Spiritual Gifts" class – it's a terrific way to find out where your gifts and talents lie. [Ω](#)



## Around the parish

*The Welcome Back Picnic on September 18 drew a large crowd of parishioners to the Elks Picnic Shelter at Indian Battle Park.*



*Dorothy Tipper, Barbara Edgecombe-Green, Francis Stillwell and Joanne Collier share a light moment after Morning Prayer on August 11.*



# VBS welcomes 80 children

BY WENDY DOHERTY  
CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Vacation Bible School (VBS) was back and better than ever this summer. This year's theme was *Monumental – Celebrating God's Love*. The four-day program was held July 5-8 with over 80 kids participating. They explored the Bible stories

of Joseph through skits, arts and crafts, games, video testimonies from their peers and of course some amazing music. Each day had a simple Bible point that kids could easily understand and take to heart: God loves you no matter what, God is

with you everywhere, God is stronger than anything and God is surprising.

A definite highlight was the kids learning to watch for God working in and around them and share these "God Sightings" with one another.

Watching the kids discover God's love is such an honour and never gets old! Over 30 volunteers worked alongside the Holy Spirit to make this a monumental week that we will all remember for years to come. Thank you VBS team for being His hands and feet and for helping to connect kids to a monumental love. Ω





# Children's Choir returns to St. Augustine's

We are thrilled that the children's choir will be returning to St. Augustine's and to announce that Meagan Thorlakson will be leading the program! Meagan has been a long time member of our church, singing with the worship band, ringing with the handbell choir, and generously serving in other various capacities as well. She teaches Music at École Agnes Davidson and in 2018 led her students to win the elementary division of the CBC Canadian Music Class Challenge. She is a talented and energetic musician whose caring ways will be a gift for our children.

The children's choir will be offered in two, six-week sessions; one in fall and the other in spring. Choir practices will be held on Sundays following the 10:00 a.m. worship service from 11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. and is for children aged 6 to 12 years.

Here are the dates:

## Fall session

Starts October 23 and ends on December 4 with the choir singing at the 10 a.m. worship service that day.

## Spring session

Starts March 5 and ends on April 23 with the choir singing at the 10 a.m. worship service that day (no practice on April 2 or 16).

If you are interested please contact Meagan directly via email: [megthorlakson@gmail.com](mailto:megthorlakson@gmail.com)



Meagan Thorlakson

# Southern Alberta organist turns 75

We join in celebrating Carole Cressman's 75-year milestone as an Anglican church organist. She is the organist at Christ Church, Fort Macleod, where a party was held on September 11 to honour her dedication and ministry.

Carol took piano lessons in Calgary from Anne Campbell before Mrs. Campbell moved to Lethbridge, then began playing at age 15 at St. Paul's in Black Diamond. She and her young family attended St. Augustine's briefly before moving to Fort Macleod. Carol's musical gifts and dedication have enriched generations on their spiritual journey, and we give thanks to God for this remarkable woman. Carole, thank you for filling the church rafters with your beautiful music for 75 years!

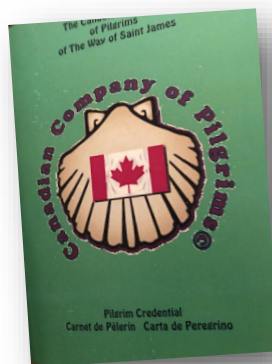


Carole Cressman at the organ

## Onward, continued from page 1

of 2013, along with David Hignell and Canon James Robinson.

“What kind of underwear are you taking?” Mary Lee recounted a conversation she had with another female traveler before they went. This was not a trivial question, since pilgrims often wash their clothes by hand in the evenings in the hostel, or *albergue*, and hang them to dry overnight. Anything that is still damp the next day is slung on a backpack to finish drying on the walk. For a traveller to keep their backpack under the recommended 20 pounds, their wardrobe has to be



folks from St Augustine’s was an unbeatable combination.”

Having prepared for the journey well in advance, Mary Lee was crestfallen when she sustained a foot injury prior to departure. Her doctor recommended she pass on the Camino.

“I ignored the doctor’s advice. He gave me a cortisone shot and said ‘OK, good luck.’”

Mary Lee packed an air-cast, walked through the day without it and wore the cast at night. Andrew helped Mary Lee arrange for her pack to be sent on ahead, so that she would not have to shoulder the extra weight. After reaching Santiago, Mary Lee, along with members of her group, continued to Finistere on the west coast of Spain – a highlight of her experience.

“The Camino brings something out in people, a togetherness,” shared David Hignell, who has co-led several groups on the Camino. David touched on the balance between solitude and communion with others:

“The Camino is a chance to walk with and get to know other people. It is also a chance to walk with yourself and with God and get to know that relationship better.”

Inspired by Andrew’s experiences on the Camino, David went for the first time for a two-week trek during the spring of 2008. He covered what could be considered the last third of the Camino starting in Ponferrada. Different journeys he’s been on since have been adapted to the needs of fellow



(L-R) Andrew Horne, Judi Paddon, James Robinson, Ria Pickering, Mary Lee Voort, David Hignell

pared down to a few quick-drying items.

“I remember going to a presentation and seeing the pictures and hearing the stories and thinking, ‘Yes! I want to do this!’ The thought of combining long distance walking, seeing a new country, and sharing that experience with some of my favourite



pilgrims. Sometimes the walking time needs to be reduced or eliminated altogether. Sometimes legs of the Camino are experienced by motorcoach. Whatever shape the journey takes, David recommends being flexible enough to go with it: “Let the Camino be what it needs to be.”

“The first week is your body, the second week is mind, anything after that is soul.”

Over five different Caminos, Bryan Pritchard has covered 1700 km by foot. His first excursion was in 2014; his longest was 32 days. Like others, Bryan was inspired by the 2010 film *The Way* about a father and son’s experiences with the Camino. Bryan had heard of the excursions of St. Augustine’s parish-ioners but, as an educator, has summers off and so wanted to take the opportunity to do a longer Camino.

“I wanted to do the whole thing,” Bryan told me. Then, laughing he said: “Little did I know that the Camino technically starts in eastern Europe.”

Bryan’s most recent Camino was during the summer of 2022, one of the hottest and driest on record in Europe.

“It was sad because of the fires that have gone through, especially between Pamplona and Logroño.” Daily temperatures along the Camino soared into the 40s.

Time to walk and ponder allows insights to develop, some of them difficult. Bryan shared that while he admires and appreciates the opulence of the cathedrals, their presence also raises questions: Who built the cathedrals? How did they build them? Many were constructed during a time when monarchs and Christian leaders used the Discovery Doctrine to justify the conquering of lands and people in the name of expanding Christendom. Early explorers brought back from the New World people who would become enslaved and forced to work on back-breaking projects.

“Seeing the world at walking speed, you can’t help but be grateful for what is there, how landscapes were

formed and developed. You are humbled by God’s creation around you, while some aspects of what we have created as humans you are not OK with – there is always a bit of a conflict. The natural landscape would rise above everything else for me.”

“Nothing prepared me for the beauty of the walk.”

Canon James Robinson also shared his profound appreciation of the experience. “The people are very warm – every restaurant, whether fancy or modest, offers a *peregrino* (pilgrim) meal. There will be a place for you to sit and a hearty meal and a bottle of wine.”

James, among others, spoke of the arrival in Santiago de Compostela, when a special mass is held in the Cathedral to honour the pilgrims. He described a tradition, dating back to the Middle Ages, where, amid chanting, a huge thurible filled with burning incense is hoisted up, and swung back and forth, censuring the gathered peregrinos.

“The physicality of the Camino is a wonderful thing. It brings to mind the pilgrimage of our own lives.” And yet, James acknowledges, not everyone is in a position

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“THE FIRST WEEK IS  
YOUR BODY, THE SEC-  
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AND ANYTHING AFTER  
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## Onward, continued from page 11

to be able to do the Camino. He recommends attending a local retreat, where “there is not the rhythm of walking, but there is the rhythm of prayers throughout the day.”

“Something as simple and profound as saying the daily office, even at home, brings to mind a pilgrimage, which is a bit like a retreat that takes place as you walk.”

James tied this to the silver shell used at St. Augustine’s for baptism. The shell is an emblem of pilgrimage and its use in baptisms symbolizes the beginning of a lifelong pilgrimage to Christ.

“If one walks all the way to the Atlantic coast there is Finistere,” said James, evoking the destination Mary Lee and others had journeyed to. “Finistere means ‘Land’s End.’ There, on a rocky outcropping, is written

*Ultreia*, which means, ‘Onward’ or ‘Keep going’ – a reminder that the pilgrimage is our life’s journey that brings us fully into the presence of Christ.” Ω

### EDITOR’S NOTE

As you can see, quite a few St. Augustine’s parishioners have taken this journey, either led by Andrew or by others. Long before I started attending services at St. Augustine’s, I came to learn that the Camino was kind of “a thing” at this church. I took my cue from my friend Bill Glaister, or rather from a painting he created after his return from Spain. Looking at that painting and hearing his story, I was inspired. I remember thinking: “I’m limited by my flat feet, but I think I can do that.” And I did – 300 km in the spring of 2012. But in truth, it wasn’t so much about the walking. Arriving at the Cathedral and hearing people calling out to one another “Hey, you made it!” was like a glimpse of Glory. That remains one of the most powerful moments in my Christian experience. *Pat Hammond*

## St. Augustine’s Church

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*The Hippo Herald* is published quarterly by St. Augustine’s Anglican Church, Lethbridge.

St. Augustine’s is a warm and growing Christian community. We are part of the worldwide Anglican Church, although many of us come from a variety of Christian backgrounds or none. We are located near the centre of Lethbridge, Alberta but our congregation is spread all over the city and region. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome to join our church family as we learn to follow Jesus.

